Calendar No. 340

100TH CONGRESS
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SENATE

REPORT
100-177

DE SOTO NATIONAL TRAIL STUDY ACT OF 1987

SEPTEMBER 25, 1987.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JOHNSTON, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1297]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 1297) to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the De Soto Trail, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments to the text and recommends that the bill (as amended), do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

1. On page 3, line 11, strike "its" and insert "the trail's".
2. On page 3, line 12, strike "from" and insert "after".

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 1297 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the De Soto Trail for possible inclusion in the National Trails System.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Hernando de Soto led one of the most significant expeditions of the New World. Beginning in Florida in May 1539, and concluding on the banks of the Mississippi in the State of Arkansas in 1542, De Soto and his 600 comrades explored significant portions of what are now the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas.

A century before the first settlement at Jamestown, the Spaniards were aggressively exploring the region now consisting of Florida and including most of our southern and southeastern States. De Soto's expedition was the first large group of Europeans to explore

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so deeply into this region. While in the most narrow sense his journey was largely a failure—no Indian treasure was found nor was an inland route to Mexico located—De Soto's exploits left an important legacy for the Nation in general and this portion of the country in particular.

May 30, 1989, will mark the 450th anniversary of De Soto's landing in the United States. The Committee believes that the designation of his historic route for study to determine its suitability for inclusion in the National Trails System will be a fitting tribute to De Soto's efforts.

While the Committee recognizes that the 1 year deadline for submission of the study may be difficult to meet given the requirements of the study and the number of States involved, the Committee urges the Department to make a concerted effort to meet this deadline in light of the upcoming 450th anniversary commemoration activities.

Legislative History

S. 1297 was introduced by Senator Graham on May 29, 1987. Hearings were held by the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests on July 30, 1987.

At a business meeting on September 16, 1987, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 1297, as amended, favorably reported.

Committee Recommendations and Tabulation of Votes

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on September 16, 1987, by unanimous vote of a quorum present recommends that the Senate pass S. 1297 if amended, as described herein.

The rollcall vote on reporting the measure was 17 yeas, 0 nays as follows:

YEAS	NAYS
Mr. Johnston	
Mr. Bumpers	
Mr. Ford	
Mr. Metzenbaum *	
Mr. Bradley *	
Mr. Bingaman *	
Mr. Wirth	
Mr. Fowler *	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. McClure	
Mr. Hatfield *	
Mr. Domenici *	
Mr. Wallop	
Mr. Murkowski	
Mr. Nickles *	
Mr. Hecht	
Mr. Evans	

* Indicates voted by proxy.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

During the consideration of S. 1297 the Committee adopted two technical amendments.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of the cost of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 22, 1987.

Hon. J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 1297, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the De Soto Trail, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, September 16, 1987.

Based on information provided by the National Park Service, CBO estimates that the cost of preparing the study required under Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act would be about $250,000. Because the bill requires that the study be completed within one year of enactment, most of this amount would be spent during fiscal year 1988.

Enactment of the bill would not affect the budgets of state or local governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

EDWARD M. GRAMLICH,
Acting Director.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 1297. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 1297, as reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The pertinent legislative report received by the Committee from the Department of Agriculture setting forth its views on S. 1297 is set forth below. A legislative report from the Department of the Interior was requested on July 13, 1987. At the time this report was filed, no views had been received from the Interior Depart-

ment. When the report becomes available, the chairman will request that it be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, August 28, 1987.

Hon. J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you requested, here is our report on S. 1297, a bill "To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the De Soto Trail, and for other purposes."

The Department of Agriculture does not object to the enactment of S. 1297, insofar as it would affect this Department. We defer to the Department of the Interior for an overall recommendation on this legislation.

Through analysis of some general knowledge concerning De Soto's route, it appears that the study proposed in S. 1297 would involve several National Forests in our Southern Region. However, most of the trail route lies outside of National Forest System lands. We recommend that the Secretary of the Interior be designated to lead this trail system study. We would be pleased to work with the Department of the Interior on the segments of this proposed study relating to National Forest System lands.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely.

PETER C. MYERS,
Acting Secretary.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill S. 1297, as ordered reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT

[16 U.S.C. 1241–1249]

AN ACT To establish a national trails system, and for other purposes

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NATIONAL SCENIC AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAILS

SEC. 5. (a) * * *

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(c) The following routes shall be studied in accordance with the objectives outlines in subsection (b) of this section:

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(31) De Soto Trail, the approximate route taken by the expedition of the Spanish explorer Hernado de Soto in 1539, extending through portions of the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, to the area of Little Rock, Arkansas, on to Texas and Louisiana, and any other States which may have been crossed by the expedition. The study under this paragraph shall be prepared in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, except that it shall be completed and submitted to the Congress with recommendations as to the trail's suitability for designation not later than one calendar year after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

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